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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-8415

COVERT ACTION HEARING

THOMAS K. LATIMER, STAFF DIRECTOR
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- APRIL 3, 1987
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT BERNIE RAIMO, 225-7311

The Subcommittee on Legislation of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will conclude its open hearings Wednesday, April 8 on H.R. 1013 and other proposals which address the issue of affording prior notice of covert actions to the Congress.

The Subcommittee on Legislation is chaired by Representative Matt McHugh (D-N.Y.).

H.R. 1013 is intended to close some loopholes in a 1980 statute (Sections 406 and 407 of Public Law 96-450) in which the Congress concluded that it should receive prior notice of covert actions.

H.R. 1013 would require such prior notice in all cases except "in extraordinary circumstances affecting the vital interests of the United States, and only where time is of the essence" In such circumstances where time does not permit prior notice, the required notice could be delayed for up to 48 hours.

H.R. 1013 would also require that all covert action "findings" be in writing and that such written findings be provided to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the statutory members of the National Security Council prior to the initiation of the proposed covert action. The bill would retain a provision of existing law which, in certain circumstances, permits the required prior notice to be given to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House, and the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the two intelligence committees, rather than to the full membership of the Committees.

H.R. 1013 was introduced by Representative Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Representative Edward P. Boland (D-Mass.), a former Chairman of the Committee. It has been co-sponsored by 51 Members of the House.

A similar bill, H.R. 1371, has been introduced by Representative Norman Mineta (D-Calif.). Representative Mineta served on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence from its inception in 1977 through 1984. H.R. 1371 would require that the Intelligence Committees - or the smaller leadership group - be given prior notice of covert actions in all cases.

The hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m. in Room 2203 Rayburn House Office Building. A witness list is attached. The public is invited.

Attachment

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

H.R. 1013, the Intelligence Oversight Amendments of 1987

WITNESSES

Wednesday, April 8, 9:00 a.m., 2203 Rayburn

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
A Representative from the State of California

The Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan
A Senator from the State of New York

Administration Witness

Lloyd Cutler, Esq.
Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering; former Counsel to the President

William G. Miller
President, American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations; former Associate Dean,
Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; and former Staff
Director, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Richard H. Shultz
Associate Professor of International Politics, Fletcher School of Law and
Diplomacy, Tufts University

Morton Halperin
Director, Washington Office of the American Civil Liberties Union; former
Senior Staff Member, National Security Council; and former Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs

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